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From Page:
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STATE GOVERNMENT

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Marion, I.C. residents named to Iowa Great Places Board

State group to help areas cultivate their unique qualities

The Gazette

DES MOINES — A Marion marketing director and an Iowa City businessman are among Iowans appointed to the first Iowa Great Places Board.

Iowa Great Places, which Gov. Tom Vilsack has created within the Department of Cultural Affairs by executive order, is designed to bring together the resources of state government to build capacity in communities, regions, neighborhoods or districts to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities that make these areas special places to live and

work.

Terry Lynch of Marion, the director of marketing for Fox Engineering Associates in Ames, and Mark Ginsberg, the owner of M.C. Ginsberg Jewelers in Iowa City, are among the 12 appointees to the board.

Lynch is a former city manager and municipal personnel and budget director, past chairwoman of the Iowa League of Cities Associate Member Advisory Committee and a past subcommittee chairwoman for the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival.

Ginsberg established the M.C. Ginsberg Community Arts Partnership and is the founder of the annual Iowa City Jazz Festival.

The board will encourage communities to capitalize

on their historic fabric and natural environment, housing options, retail amenities, entrepreneurial incentives, business development, diversity, arts and culture.

The board will advise in the design of the Iowa Great Places initiative and assist in the selection of three pilot Great Places.

Other board members from Eastern Iowa are Quentin Hart of Waterloo, retention coordinator for Hawkeye Community College; Bill Menner of Grinnell, executive director of Poweshiek Iowa Development; Gil Spence of Dubuque, city parks director; Amanda Styron of Mount Pleasant, student at the University of Iowa; and Rita Vagas of Davenport, Scott County recorder.